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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,380	10/01/2003	Takashi Ishikawa	AKY-0012	4395

23353 7590 10/27/2004

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EXAMINER

FERGUSON, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/674,380

Applicant(s)

ISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

3679



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/01/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 (line 7) recites "with interval; and". It should recite --with an interval between the flanges; and--.

Claim 2 (line 3) recites "mates to". It should recite --mating with--.

Claim 3 (line 6) recites "leaves some engaging even elastic piece is in the state of a elastic deformation where the engaging claw is been released". It appears the applicant intended to recite --leaves the elastic piece in a state of elastic deformation when the engaging claw is released--.

For the purpose of examining the application, it is assumed that appropriate correction has been made.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mayville et al. (US 6,634,252).

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As to claim 1, Mayville et al. disclose a one-touch cap for fixing a control cable end to a plate-like bracket **20** having a U-shaped slot **18** inside of which is provided with a stepped latching part **26** in a detachable manner, the one touch cap comprising:

a tubular body having a cable fixing part for fixing a cable end;

a first flange **31** to be engaged with one surface of the bracket and a second flange **34** to be engaged with another surface, both flanges being provided on the outer surface of the body with an interval between the flanges; and

an elastic piece **46** being provided between the first and second flanges; and having a base portion connected to a bottom of the body, an outer surface provided with an engaging claw **24** to be engaged with the stepped latching part of the bracket, and a free end extending upward (Figures 1-5).

As to claim 2, Mayville et al. disclose a one-touch cap comprising:

a guide part **48** provided between the first flange **31** and the second flange **34** and mating with an inside surface of the U-shaped slot **18**,

wherein the guide part is axially shifted from the elastic piece **46** (Figure 4).

As to claim 3, Mayville et al. disclose a one-touch cap wherein:

the bracket has a second stepped latching part **26**;

the elastic piece has a hook block (second member **24**) in addition to the engaging claw (first member **24**);

the hook block is located near the bottom of the elastic piece **46** and is capable of engaging with the second stepped latching part (examiner notes that the orientation of an object is based upon the angle at which it is viewed); and

an engagement of the hook block with the second latching part leaves the elastic piece in a state of elastic deformation when the engaging claw is released (engaging claw (first member **24**) may be released from stepped latching part **26** without releasing hook block (second member **24**) from second stepped latching part **26**; Figures 1 and 2).

As to claim 4, Mayville et al. disclose a one-touch cap comprising a lock piece **36,42** (locking elastic piece **46** onto the body) detachably inserted between the elastic piece **46** and the body (Figure 6).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure. The following patents show the state of the art with respect to one-touch connectors:

Fisher (US 3,366,356), Suzuki et al. (US 6,340,265), Burger (US 6,490,947) and Babcock Industries (EP 0 365 243) are cited for pertaining to connectors having a tubular body, a first and second flange, and an elastic piece.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (703)308-8591. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703)308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
MPF  
10/19/04



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